

January 16, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

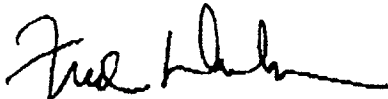
As a business owner for more than twenty years, I have observed the changes in our economy. I have also seen increasing constraints by the federal government on US companies while at the same time giving priority to foreign trade that can result in a competitive advantage for products produced in other countries.

The technology industry has been a driving force in many segments of industry and is one reason the U.S. has maintained its leadership role in the global economy. Companies such as Microsoft have encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship. Our economy cannot afford to have the government discourage companies like Microsoft from developing new products. The proposed consent decree between Microsoft and the U. S. Department of Justice reaches a middle ground for Microsoft and its competitors.

Computer manufacturers will have the flexibility to configure Windows so Windows features such as the Internet Explorer can be removed and replaced with another web browser. A technical committee will be established to monitor compliance with the settlement. Other remedies will also benefit Microsoft competitors while at the same time giving Microsoft the ability to keep innovating on behalf of consumers.

While the settlement will impose new rules and regulations, resolution of this matter is important for consumers and for technology companies. It will also free companies to focus on the future and the fast changing digital economy.

Sincerely,



Fred Dula
6614 Gaywind Drive
Charlotte, NC 28226
704-366-6457